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CORRECTION

In a story about the ASUN Senate's denial of student fee funding to the Committee Offering Lesbian and Gay Events (DN, Feb. 16), ASUN Sen. Steve Thomlison said sodomy laws in the Bible show that homosexuality is morally wrong. He did not, however, quote specific Bible passages.

WEATHER: Monday, light snow, high of 30, E winds 10-20 mph, 70 percent chance of snow. Monday night, cloudy with flurries, highs 15-20. Tuesday, high of 35 with cloudy skies.

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Roamin' in sneakers

A statue in Architecture Hall sports a pair of high top sneakers donated by an anonymous friend.

David Frana/Daily Nebraskan

COLAGE might go to court if denied university funds

By Brandon Loomis
Senior Reporter

The gay and lesbian programming group at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has a "wait-and-see attitude" but may consider legal action if the university denies financing it through student fees, according to the group's co-chairperson.

Nanci Hamilton of COLAGE, the Committee Offering Lesbian and Gay Events, said legal precedence is on the group's side. If the UNL administration follows the advice of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska and denies funding, she said, COLAGE could take the university to court.

"The option is there, but I'm not going to confirm or deny whether we'll pursue that option," Hamilton said.

The decision of whether to fund the group now goes to UNL Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen and Chancellor Martin Massengale.

Hamilton said John Taylor, director of the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union, looked into similar cases in the past and found that a federal court last year ruled that denying funds to a gay and lesbian group is unconstitutional.

The case, Gay and Lesbian Students Association (University of Arkansas, Fayetteville) vs. Gohn, was heard in the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The court ruled that denial of funds based on content of programming violated First Amendment free speech rights.

Taylor, referring to ASUN's consideration of COLAGE student fee funding, said, "The decisions that have been made have been made on content."

Because Nebraska is within the 8th Circuit Court's jurisdiction, Taylor said, the Arkansas case is binding on Nebraska. The court that would hear COLAGE's case would have to

decide if the case is substantially similar, he said.

"It appears to me to be substantially similar," Taylor said, "but I'm not an attorney."

Jill Durbin, an ASUN senator and member of the Committee for Fees Allocation, said it is hard to compare the two cases. She said she would have to study the Arkansas case carefully before saying if ASUN had acted in the same manner as the University of Arkansas.

ASUN voted 18-7 with one abstention Wednesday to deny COLAGE funding.

"I don't think we've acted unconstitutionally, and I think it's going to be hard for them to prove we have," Durbin said.

CFA has received letters from a gay and lesbian group at a California college urging the committee to fund COLAGE, Durbin said. That group made similar claims of the unconstitutionality of denying funds to COLAGE, and said that it, too, had won a court case, she said.

But Durbin maintained that ASUN's and CFA's decisions were constitutional and not based on personal prejudices.

"It wasn't a decision based on morality, at least not for me," she said.

Jeff Petersen, ASUN president, said that in deciding to deny funding to COLAGE, ASUN did not violate the group's First Amendment free speech rights.

"No one has ever said that the gay and lesbian community didn't have the perfect, 100 percent right to speak out and hold events on campus," Petersen said. "It's just a question of who's going to pay for it."

Durbin said the new developments in the controversial COLAGE funding issue won't change her mind or make her think she has acted unconstitutionally.

"If they want to take us to court, I guess we'll just have to take them on," she said.

Book sells due to controversy

By Brandon Loomis
Senior Reporter

When Waldenbooks ordered its stores across the nation to remove the controversial book "The Satanic Verses" from the shelves Friday, customers at the Lincoln branch had already beaten them to it.

The manager of Lincoln's Waldenbooks, who would not give her name, said the nation's largest bookseller will continue to sell the book upon request where and when available. She said the decision to take the books off display was an effort to protect store employees.

The book prompted Iran's Ayatollah

Khomeini to demand the death of the book's author, Salman Rushdie, because it is allegedly blasphemous. Bomb threats also have been made against the book's U.S. publisher.

Although the manager of Waldenbooks would not say if the book ever sold in Lincoln, a salesclerk confirmed Saturday that the book sold out when the controversy began last week. Waldenbooks is located in the Centrum Plaza.

Kathy Stasch, manager of Lincoln's B. Dalton Bookseller said her company's national headquarters had told her not to comment on whether her store had sold the book. But B. Dalton, located in the Gateway Mall, sold out

See BOOK on 3

Former UNL financial aid assistant leaves Nebraska for Iowa position

By Larry Peirce
Senior Reporter

Doug Severs begins a new job today as financial aid director of the University of Dubuque, Iowa, after 15 years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid.

Severs, who was assistant director of the UNL office until Friday, began his career at the university in 1973, after the U.S. Department of Education reviewed aid programs and found that students' on-campus employment wasn't being monitored properly. He had been there longer than anyone in the office.

"They hired me in part to fill holes they found in the (1973) review," he said.

The reviewers found the office was "over-awarding" aid to students because they indicated they weren't going to work, but did, he said.

Severs got his job at UNL after he noticed a job opening at the aid office posted in the College of Business Administration. He was hired with a beginning wage of \$1.90 an hour to monitor students' on-campus em-

ployment and help students find off-campus jobs.

Two months later he was making \$2.50 an hour, and a year later he became coordinator of work study programs.

Much has changed at the office during his time there, he said.

In 1973, Pell Grants didn't exist, and guaranteed student loans were rare. UNL offered only work study, National Direct Student Loan and Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant programs, he said.

College costed less in the early 1970s. The estimated total cost of attending UNL was about \$2,200 per year in 1973, compared to about \$6,300 today, he said.

"Kids could probably work and get some help from parents and get by (in 1973)," he said. "Now about two-thirds are on some form of financial aid."

The size of the office's staff has doubled over the years, while the work has quadrupled, he said.

"Thousands" of guaranteed student loans go through the office every year, with almost all banks offering them, he said. Federal guidelines

have caused the workload and amount of paperwork to increase, he said.

One of the most frustrating aspects of the job, he said, is explaining to students that federal regulations dictate the amount of aid they can be awarded.

"I say 'I'd love to do something for you (students), but we have these federal guidelines,'" he said.

The guidelines are "not necessarily fair or rational," but the office still must follow them, he said.

Aid applicants now must show they are registered or exempt from registration with the Selective Service, and 30 percent of applications must be verified with tax forms, he said. These requirements didn't exist in the mid-1970s, he said.

The University of Dubuque, a private school in northeast Iowa, has about 1,200 students and offers a doctor of theology degree and a liberal arts program. Severs said it will be like returning to the early '70s at UNL when almost all of the work was done manually by a small staff.

See SEVERS on 3

NASA invests in research

By Julie Drael
Staff Reporter

NASA's interest in high resolution pictures has led it to help finance research being conducted by Khalid Sayood, an associate professor of electrical engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Sayood said NASA, along with Gov. Kay Orr's Research Initiative, have invested almost \$250,000 to support research at UNL for a data compression system.

The system he is working on will help reduce distortion in images coming from space and will allow researchers and scientists to store large amounts of easily accessible information.

"The ultimate goal is trying to achieve maximum compression with maximum image quality," he said.

For example, Sayood said, a scientist who is measuring distances on Mars by using a data compression system might have inaccurate measurements if the image is distorted.

Sayood said NASA wants high

quality pictures transferred from space to earth from their planned space station.

Scientists may not be on the space station at all times and the data compression system also could record information from video cameras on the space station, he said.

"The cameras could be taking pictures of changes in ice cap size, looking for mineral deposits or taking pictures of earth under different circumstances," he said.

Sayood said the better image quality is possible because of new programming techniques.

He said he has been working on this system for nine years.

The system also can be used to transfer medical images like X-rays from hospital to hospital, and for teleconferences, he said.

Last May, Sayood said, he attended a conference sponsored by NASA for researchers working with data compression and scientists who will be using the data compression computers.

"We were trying to figure out strategies to deal with some of the problems with the system," he said.